

When we reintroduced the Momnibus last year, we went from nine bills to 12 bills because we had to have legislation to address immunization—vaccines—as well as COVID-19. The state of maternal health in this country is a crisis, but with the pandemic, we experienced a crisis within a crisis—and tens of thousands of pregnant women have had to struggle with being pregnant or giving birth while experiencing COVID-19. Two of these new bills in the Momnibus package promote maternal vaccinations to protect the health and safety of moms and babies and invest in federal programs to address the unique risks for and effects of COVID-19 during and after pregnancy.

Last year, we received good news when all the eligible provisions of the Momnibus were included in the Build Back Better Act, which passed the House. The Momnibus provisions in Build Back Better invest in addressing social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes; fund community-based organizations working to improve maternal health outcomes; grow and diversify the perinatal workforce to improve maternity care; support moms with mental health conditions and substance abuse disorders; invest in Historically Black Colleges and Universities to train culturally competent health professionals; and address the effects of COVID-19 and climate change on mothers.

That's a comprehensive approach to this crisis, something we've never tried before. However, the Build Back Better Act is stalled in the Senate and will likely be passed in a more limited form, if at all. We as Members of Congress must take the Black maternal health crisis seriously. Moms and children are dying, and we must act.

When we think about how important mothers are, we should recognize that parents touch so many lives, even outside their immediate families. Their threads weave into countless others to form the fabric of our communities. When we lose a parent to this crisis, we lose teachers, volunteers, activists, professionals, caregivers, parishioners, and mommies. When too many threads are pulled, the fabric unravels.

We owe our communities a different future. This Black Maternal Health Week, let's work together to pass the Momnibus into law.

Our mamas cannot wait.

COMMEMORATING WHISPERING
MANES THERAPEUTIC RIDING
CENTER OPENING THE MARCH
ARENA

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center's opening of a new arena in Florida's 26th Congressional District. It is my honor to recognize individuals and organizations in my district that dedicate their time and resources to helping improve the lives of children and their families that struggle with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities.

Whispering Manes is opening a new arena and dedicating it to Marilyn Fizer March, an advocate and leader for children who suffer from a wide variety of disabilities. The March Arena is in the heart of my district and serves a neighborhood that would not otherwise have access to equine activities.

Through safe and supervised programs, participants with a wide range of disabilities are given the opportunity to participate in activities that promote physical, cognitive, or emotional well-being. The program aims to promote improvements in core and overall muscle strength, balance, and motor skills.

I am always proud to recognize individuals and organizations that dedicate their time to improving the lives of children in my district and in the community. I look forward to seeing this new arena provide invaluable services to this community and the constituents of Florida's 26th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
C. BOSCO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to honor the life of the late Joseph "Joey" Bosco, a lifelong Enfield, Connecticut resident who passed on April 1st, 2022, at the age of 60.

Born to Angelo Bosco and Mary Diana Bosco in 1962 in Springfield, Massachusetts, just across the Connecticut border, Joey was destined to be an irreplaceable member of the Enfield community. Upon graduating from Enfield High School in 1980, Joey remained in Enfield where he became the co-owner of Bosco Automotive Inc. Joey was memorable for his dedication to his town and family.

Having lived all his life in Enfield, his love for his town was reflected through the many hours of dedicated public service to the Town of Enfield. Joey served as a member of the Enfield Town Council for more than 14 years and on several other community boards throughout the years. He was especially notable as a member of the Board of Directors for the Four Town Fair. He spent many hours planning leading up to the fair, the main event of which for him was always meant to be an opportunity to connect with family and friends.

Apart from his constant service to his town, Joey spent his free time on the beach, at car shows, and on his farm. Friday nights Joey was known to be at the Country Diner with his family and friends talking for hours. The most rewarding title to Joey is being a "Papa" to his four loving grandchildren, Charlotte, Waylon Joseph, Oliver, and Reagan.

Madam Speaker, it is an incredible honor to represent constituents as loyal to the future of their community as Joey Bosco. Though Joey's legacy and character will continue to have a ripple effect as a force of altruism, particularly for those who knew him in the Enfield community, his loss and what it means for the region cannot be understated. I had the opportunity to get to know him at community events—parades and veteran's ceremonies. Walking

beside him, I saw firsthand how revered he was by neighbors, customers, first responders and fellow public officials. We were different parties, but on a personal level he was very cordial and down to earth. I really enjoyed spending time with him. As difficult as it is for us to process his passing, it is worth finding solace in the impact that his life will have upon the local community as well as his surviving family and loved ones, namely his devoted wife Jackie, and daughters, Jacquelyn M. Siekiera and her husband Zachary, Jessica M. Bosco, Jamie Jo Bosco and her spouse, Isaac Velazquez, and considered son in law, Ben Hebert, and his four cherished grandchildren. Joey also leaves behind brothers, John and Angelo, and sister, Rori, as well as numerous extended family members and friends.

To that end, I ask that the entire House join me in setting Joseph Bosco's name further into stone, and to recognize his life of incredible service to the Enfield community.

OBSERVING DISTRACTED DRIVING
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 11, 2022

Mr. KIRSHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join thousands of organizations and individuals around the country in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Over ten years ago, a mother who lost her daughter to a distracted driving crash successfully petitioned this body to have April officially designated as Distracted Driving Awareness Month. This month brings a needed awareness of the impact distracted driving has had and continues to have on our nation's roadways.

Research shows that using electronic devices increases cognitive distraction. Yet, according to a recent survey released by the National Safety Council—a nonprofit based in my district—47% of drivers believe they can safely text while driving. This can be deadly on the road, where a split-second distraction can cause a crash. Approximately 3,142 people died in distraction-affected driving crashes in 2020—that's eight people dying every day from a completely preventable cause—and this number is widely believed to be undercounted.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the roads have become much more dangerous. Motor vehicle deaths in 2021 are estimated to be the highest in 17 years, despite dramatic drops in miles driven as Americans stayed home. Though there are many factors involved in this increase in the number of people dying in crashes, distraction certainly played a part.

I am proud to have led legislation that was enacted last year to help end this epidemic, though there is more to be done to eradicate this issue. I encourage all motorists to commit to driving attentively and safely, without the distraction of cell phones or other devices. I also hope my colleagues will join me this month in raising awareness about this important issue. Do it for all our constituents. Their lives are more valuable than any call, email, or text.